The seal of the St. Charles Fire Department is a circular emblem. It features a central shield with a fire engine and a fireman. The words "ST. CHARLES" are at the top and "FIRE DEPARTMENT" is at the bottom of the shield. The outer ring of the seal contains the text "COMMISSION ON FIRE ACCREDITATION INTERNATIONAL".

ST. CHARLES FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2013

*The Commission on Fire Accreditation International
recognizes the*

**St Charles Fire Department
St Charles, IL**

as an

**Internationally Accredited Agency
August 15, 2013**

*The Commission on Fire Accreditation International is dedicated to assisting
the fire and emergency service agencies throughout the world in achieving
excellence through self assessment and accreditation in order to provide continuous
quality improvement and the enhancement of service delivery to their communities.*

Randy R. Bruegman

*Chief Randy R. Bruegman, President
Center for Public Safety Excellence Board of Directors*

Allan Cain

*Chief R. Allan Cain, Chairman
Commission on Fire Accreditation International*

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

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Message from the Chief

The St. Charles Fire Department is defined by the efforts of each individual member in our collective pursuit of excellence. This statement is accurate not only in reference to the activities that we complete to provide services, it is also true for the ways in which we interact with the City as a Department and with the community at large. On June 17th of this past year, I had the great honor and good fortune to be named Fire Chief of the St. Charles Fire Department. It has been my privilege to witness these efforts unfold.

As a Department, we achieved a significant mile stone in 2013, we became only the 181st Fire Department to become internationally accredited by the Commission of Fire Accreditation International and through the Center for Public Safety Excellence. This achievement marked a two year effort to undertake an in-depth self-examination and challenge of everything that we do. Through the rigor of the process, we learned a great deal about ourselves. We verified the things that we thought we did well and learned new ways to improve upon the activities that presented the greatest obstacles.



Another achievement of notable importance came through our adoption of Interest Based Bargaining (IBB). Starting with instruction on the principles and practices of this innovative method of collective bargaining and through the assistance of training provided by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, we undertook a different type of self-introspection. We acknowledged that we can achieve more by understanding each other and working together to resolve real issues, not by taking and defending positions. We have continued to use the foundations of IBB to achieve our collective goals when we have confronted other challenges that needed to be met.

Building on our success, we have begun the process required to achieve accredited status for both our Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and for Tri City Ambulance (TCA). Our EMA group achieved Certified Status this year and qualified to begin the accreditation process through the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. This would be a historic accomplishment for EMA as they have worked tirelessly to continually improve their operations on both a practical and professional levels.



(Continued on page 2)

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Message from the Chief, cont'd.

(Continued from page 1)

Tri City Ambulance is also well on its way to achieving accredited status through the Commission on the Accreditation of Ambulance Services. St. Charles is the lead agency for TCA however, the efforts of the Coordinators in Geneva and Batavia have also been instrumental in moving the process forward. The achievement of accredited status would put TCA in a bracket by itself in Illinois as we would be the only 911 EMS provider to achieve this honor.



While all of the previously mentioned activity was taking place, we encountered floods in April and snows starting in November. We had a good time in August hosting the City-wide employee picnic after the Foreign Fire Insurance Fund stepped up and purchased an enormous grill that was the hit of the party. We also gathered together for the seniors' dinner that the Union hosts for one of the retirement homes every year. Everyone's presence at the Hunt Club Village was, once again, very well received and appreciated. Throughout the year, we took time to mark the promotion of Scott Swanson to Assistant Chief, Nick McManus to Battalion Chief, Joel Meeter to Captain, and Tony Centimano to Lieutenant. Additionally, we welcomed Chad Tinsley back as our newest Firefighter Paramedic.

Please take the time to read each and every one of the following pages as they detail the efforts of the Department for 2013. Each day we continue to move forward and achieve great things while still honoring our culture and the traditions of the past. There is no doubt that 2013 was an exceptional year, there is also no doubt that there will be many more to come.

*Joe Schelstreet
Fire Chief*

MISSION OF THE ST. CHARLES FIRE DEPARTMENT:

*To create and foster a safe and secure local community
and deliver excellent emergency services,
in order to safeguard and enhance lives,
resources and community well-being.*

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Administration - Emergency Management Agency

The St. Charles Emergency Management Agency has made great strides towards a better prepared City in 2013. The support and “buy-in” from the city leaders and employees has allowed St. Charles to become a certified Emergency Management Agency with Kane County. St. Charles is the only county certified city in Kane County, which gives the City a greater level of credibility as well as an improved opportunity to apply for and potentially receive grants. The city leadership supported the emergency management training of many city employees as well as the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, and all departments participated in creating and exercising the Emergency Operations Plan. The certification is effective for two years.

EMA’s work is not done and we are moving on to the next step which is applying for and achieving state accreditation. As of this writing this process is underway with the anticipated award coming August 2014 (Accreditation is only awarded in the month of August).

In April of 2013 the skies opened and it rained long and hard enough to cause a Presidential Disaster Declaration to be issued for Kane County for Individual Assistance (IA; Homeowners and Small Businesses). Unfortunately the County did



not meet the federally required monetary damage threshold for Public Assistance (PA; the repairs to the public infrastructure). The Emergency Operations Center was open for 31 hours as emergency response and weather was continuously monitored. During this event Community Development played a vital role in the damage assessment in the City and Public Works concentrated on debris management. This disaster was an excellent example of how well the emergency

responders of the City performed and how well prepared the Department Directors were for the emergency.

When the flood waters receded the EMA went about its regular routine of training, meetings, and the summer special event schedule.

August also saw a first; the Tri-Cities have established a Tri-Cities EMA. What this means is that Batavia ESDA, Geneva EMA, and St. Charles EMA not only have a mutual aid agreement

(Continued on page 4)

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Administration - Emergency Management Agency

(Continued from page 3)

but the three organizations meet and train quarterly in an effort to provide a better working relationship as well as working continuity should the three need to assist one another in an emergency. This helps all three cities by making the mutual aid response seamless and increases available manpower to respond.

EMA looks forward to 2014 and the challenges it may bring. Some items to look for are the Accreditation, participation in Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) initiatives (Ready Community and Ready Schools) and continued involvement with our Tri-Cities partners; Batavia and Geneva.

St. Charles EMA by the Numbers:

Training:	612.5 hours
Emergency Response:	453 hours
Special Events:	364.5 hours
City Hall Security:	560.5 hours

2013 was a positive year in the services EMA provided and the achievements they accomplished.

*Paul Bumba
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator*



St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Administration - Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Board.

The Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Board oversees the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax fund. This fund is available to be used to purchase items and services that benefit all members of the Department. Some of the notable requests that the board approved are:

- ❖ Fire Fighter Chip Voelsch to finish out the remaining four open bunkrooms at station one with matching furniture as existing bunkrooms.
- ❖ Fire Fighter Chip Voelsch to upgrade the original purchase of mattress and box spring and four new mattress and box spring for Station One.
- ❖ Fire Fighter Tony Cavallo for 50 Stream light Vantage Helmet Mounted Lights.
- ❖ Fire Fighter Tony Cavallo for a MagiKitch'n Outdoor 60" Charcoal Grill.
- ❖ Fire Fighter Chris Thomas for New EMS/Fire Polaris Ranger 6x6 Cart with a Kimtek Firelite Supermax EMS/Fire skid unit.



The 2013 Foreign Fire Insurance Board members

Christian Thomas	Chairman
Tony Cavallo	Vice Chairman
Chip Voelsch	Secretary
Phil Kuhn	Treasurer
Guy Gresser	Trustee
Jeremy Mauthe	Trustee
Chief Schelstreet	Trustee

FF/PM Chris Thomas
Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Board Chairman

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Fire Prevention Bureau

2013 was busy in the Fire Prevention Bureau. Activities are on-going in the areas of inspection, plan review, investigations, public education, and special events. Work continues on the pre-planning program which is integrated with the GIS system. The system that was developed allows all data to be input by the firefighters, which gives us the ability to add pertinent information at any time. The changes will be done in real time and be immediately available to the firefighters. The information is available on the Mobile Data Computer in the apparatus. It will provide firefighters with relevant building information while en route to the call. On average fire doubles in size every minute, so the more information we have the faster we can react once on scene. Beta testing and project completion will be complete in 2014.

The use of a tablet computers is being tested in the field on new construction inspections. This will eventually allow the Fire Department inspection process to be paperless and more efficient. This is a multi-year project and the evaluation of the hardware and modification of software will continue during 2014.

There were many projects that were reviewed in 2013 and have been completed or will be completed in 2014. Major projects were:

<i>Gold Fish Swim School</i>	<i>3455 Legacy Drive</i>	<i>Build-out of existing shell</i>
<i>RR Donnelly</i>	<i>609 S. Kirk Rd.</i>	<i>Major alteration</i>
<i>Illinois Youth Center</i>	<i>3825 Campton Hills Rd.</i>	<i>Major alteration (1 bldg.)</i>
<i>Waste Water Sludge Facility</i>	<i>200 Devereaux Way</i>	<i>New facility</i>
<i>Smart Source</i>	<i>3813 Illinois Ave.</i>	<i>Major alteration</i>
<i>O'Reilly Auto Parts</i>	<i>1405 W. Main St</i>	<i>New Building</i>
<i>Clarke Environmental</i>	<i>675 Sidwell Ct</i>	<i>Major alteration</i>
<i>Discount Tire</i>	<i>121 S. Randall Rd.</i>	<i>New Building</i>
<i>McDonalds</i>	<i>1915 W. Main St.</i>	<i>New Building</i>

(Continued on page 7)

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Fire Prevention Bureau, cont'd.

(Continued from page 6)

Fire Prevention Activities:

Fire Prevention Bureau - New Construction Inspections

83	Final Occupancy related inspections
44	Sprinkler system inspections
36	Fire Alarm inspections
4	Kitchen system inspections
15	Chapter 34 reviews or conferences
10	Emergency / life safety systems inspections
18	Fire Drills witnessed
14	School Inspections
27	Misc. Fire Prevention Bureau Inspections
<hr/>	
251	Total
341	Hours

Incidents or Inspections referred to Bureau

164	Fire Incidents referred to the Bureau for follow-up
124	Fire Company Inspections referred to the bureau for follow-up
<hr/>	
288	Total
576	Hours

Plan Reviews Completed

117	Architectural plan reviews
35	Fire Alarm Plan reviews
4	Misc. reviews
3	Demolition permit reviews
19	Engineering plan reviews
8	Kitchen system plan reviews
33	Sprinkler plan reviews
<hr/>	
219	Total
657	Hours

(Continued on page 8)

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Fire Prevention Bureau, cont'd.

(Continued from page 7)

Fire Company Inspections		
169	Annual Occupancy Inspections	Black Shift Station #1
1	Annual Occupancy Re-inspections	
220	Annual Occupancy Inspections	Black Shift Station #2
9	Annual Occupancy Re-inspections	
156	Annual Occupancy Inspections	Black Shift Station #3
43	Annual Occupancy Re-inspections	
222	Annual Occupancy Inspections	Red Shift Station #1
1	Annual Occupancy Re-inspections	
345	Annual Occupancy Inspections	Red Shift Station #2
100	Annual Occupancy Re-inspections	
235	Annual Occupancy Inspections	Red Shift Station #3
18	Annual Occupancy Re-inspections	
199	Annual Occupancy Inspections	Gold Shift Station #1
226	Annual Occupancy Inspections	Gold Shift Station #2
14	Annual Occupancy Re-inspections	
200	Annual Occupancy Inspections	Gold Shift Station #3
27	Annual Occupancy Re-inspections	
2191	Total Company Inspections	
1955	Total Hours	

Lt. Brian Byrne
Fire Prevention Bureau

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Fire Prevention - Public Education

One of the few ways the St. Charles Fire Department has an opportunity to have a proactive effect on the safety and wellbeing of its citizens is through fire prevention and public education. Empowering its citizens with the knowledge and ability to avoid and prevent hazardous events is the main goal of the Department through Public Education.

Teaching children, at an early age, about the power and danger of fire, as well as basic knowledge about the science of fire, establishes a solid base that is necessary for creating safety minded citizens.

The Fire Prevention Week school program, led by Jeff Tarro with the assistance of on-duty crews, has been very successful at delivering this type of lesson. A new PA system has been purchased with funds from the Foreign Fire Insurance Tax Fund to provide an effective tool for getting our message out clearly at public education events.



Continuing the message of safety and awareness is done through the Prom Crash Show that is demonstrated annually at one of the St Charles High Schools. This year, the show was performed at the North High School with the collaboration of the Fire Department, Police Department,



School District 303, Kane County Coroner's Office, and private businesses. Lt. Jim Kurczek directed the participants and provided a presentation that hopefully made a lasting impression upon those who attended about the dangers of drinking and driving as well as the dangers of driving while distracted, particularly regarding texting and driving.

Offering safety talks during school visits and tours provides additional resources and reinforcement of important safety topics. Station tours continue to be popular events and scripted procedures have been distributed to all three stations as well as totes containing safety handouts and visual aids. Totes have also been placed on front line apparatus containing handouts, Vials of Life, smoke, and CO detectors.

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St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Fire Prevention - Public Education, cont'd.

(Continued from page 9)

Jeff Tarro continues to present fire extinguisher classes to local businesses as well as City of St Charles employees. The new Bullex simulator has proven to be a valuable tool for efficient and safe fire extinguisher demonstrations, as well as much more environmentally friendly than the old diesel system.

Public CPR classes were offered each month and all instructors recently recertified with the new AHA Training Center, Waubensee College. Lieutenants Jim Kurczek and Tony Centimano have become Waubensee faculty members which enables them to assist monitoring the Department's instructors for recertification. Mike Pyzyna has rejoined the list of CPR instructors along with Lt Jim Kurczek, Lt Tony Centimano, Cliff Lo, and Steve Dries. Assistant Chief Kevin Christensen and Paramedics Trent Moser and Mike Gorney continue to maintain CPR Instructor certification as well and are available as adjunct instructors.

Finally, discussions continue regarding resurrecting the Annual Fire Department Open House and hopes are that we will once again host the popular event in 2014.



Pre-School Visits



Station Tours

*Lt. Jim Kurczek
Public Education Team Leader*

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Operations

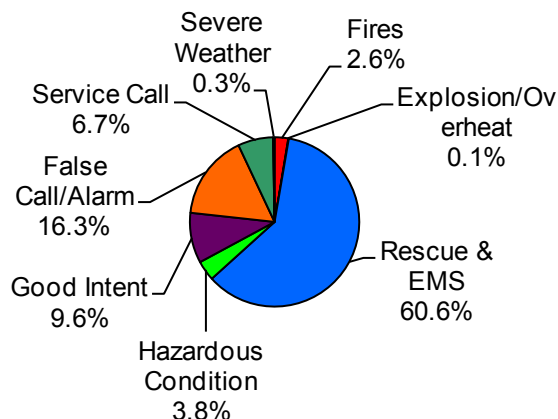
The Operations Division of the St. Charles Fire Department has the functional responsibility for the delivery of emergency services to the citizens, business owners, and visitors who call or request fire department services. The emergency services provided by the St. Charles Fire Department include fire suppression, rescue services, emergency medical responses, and special teams operations.

The St. Charles Fire Department was dispatched to a total of 4282 incidents during the year 2013. The personnel from the St. Charles Fire Department handled an average of 11.73 incidents responses each day during 2013. This was a nearly 2% increase in daily call volume from the previous year.

2013 St. Charles Fire Department Calls by Incident Type

Incident Type	Number
Fires	108
Overpressure/Explosion	3
Rescue & Emergency Medical Services	2595
Hazardous Condition	165
Service Incident	287
Good Intent Incident	410
False Call or Alarm	697
Severe Weather & Disaster	13
Special Incident Type	4
Total	4282

Types of Incidents - 2013



(Continued on page 12)

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Operations, cont'd.

(Continued from page 11)

The St. Charles Fire Department responded to 105 fires of various types, constituting approximately 2.5% of the total incidents handled. The total fire loss for 2013 was \$562,420. This is a 7% decrease from 2012. The firefighter's efforts resulted in saving an outstanding 96.62% of the property in which fires occurred.

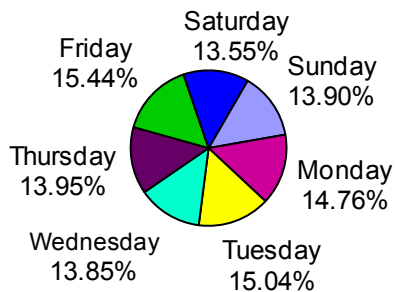
Type of Fire Incident	Number
Structure/Building Fires	47
Appliance/Cooking/Chimney Fires	14
Vehicle Fires	12
Grass/Brush/Wildland Fires	11
Dumpster/Rubbish Fires	19
Other Fires	2
Total	105

Type of Rescue Incident	Number
EMS, excluding vehicle accidents	2302
Medic Assistance	63
Vehicle Accidents	184
Pedestrian vs Vehicle Accidents	12
Water Rescue	4
Extrication Incidents	22
EMS Stand-By	8
Total	2595

The Department responded to 2,595 Rescue and EMS incidents during 2013. These calls comprised 60% of the total responses for the St. Charles Fire Department. A breakdown of these incidents shows the following types and numbers of rescue incidents.

Friday, with 661 incidents, was the busiest day of the week during calendar year 2013. Wednesday, with 573 incidents, was the slowest day of the week.

2013 Incidents By Day of the Week



Day of the Week	Total Incidents	Average Daily Incidents
Sunday	595	13.89
Monday	632	14.75
Tuesday	644	15.03
Wednesday	573	13.38
Thursday	597	13.94
Friday	661	15.43
Saturday	580	13.54

(Continued on page 13)

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

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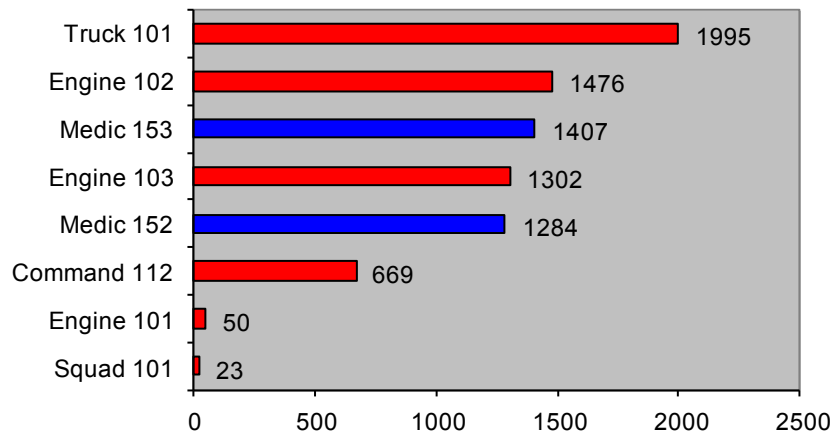
Operations, cont'd.

(Continued from page 12)



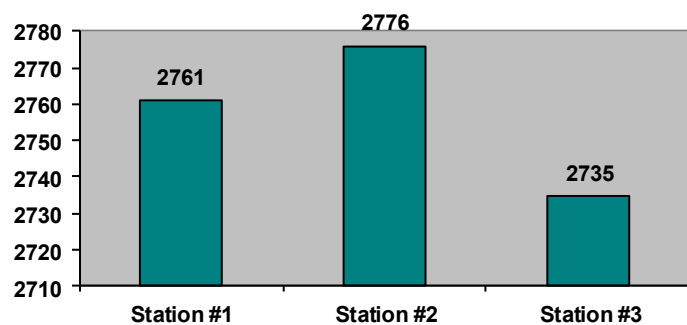
Truck Company 101 maintained the status as the busiest unit within the St. Charles Fire Department with 1995 responses during 2013. This equates to an average of 166 responses per month or nearly 5.5 incidents responses per day. This is a 7.6% increase in response activity over the previous year.

SCFD - 2013 Responses by Unit



While the unit responses by fire station were extremely well balanced, Fire Station #2 remained the busiest location by unit responses during 2013. This is the only the second year that centrally located Fire Station #1 was not the busiest station facility for total unit responses.

2013 - Unit Responses by Station



(Continued on page 14)

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Operations, cont'd.

(Continued from page 13)

STATIONS AND PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS DURING 2013



**Fire Station #1 - 112 N. Riverside Avenue
Central Station - Downtown**

Command 112	Acting Battalion Chief Lance Maxwell	Battalion Chief Nick McManus	Battalion Chief Marty Friel
Truck 101	Lt. John Kessler	Capt. Leo Veseling	Lt. Allen Wade
		Lt. Jeremy Mauthe	Lt. Tony Centimano
	Brian Hansen	Chip Voelsch	Mike Thomas
	Steve Dries	Dave Chmelar	Tony Cavallo
	Joe Stalker	Chad Tinsley	Kelly Malone

(Continued on page 15)

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Operations-Stations and Personnel Assignments, cont'd.

(Continued from page 14)



Fire Station #2 – 2900 Production Drive East Side

Engine 102	Lt. Scott Schaben	Lt. Mike Schaben	Lt. Mike Neumaier
	Guy Gresser	Mike Pyzyna	Wes Gosser
	Nick Marqui	Cliff Lo	Joe Davila
	Jason Peterson	Jeff Tarro	Brad Wilton
Medic 152	Mike Gorney	Gwen Mayer	Art Lloyd
	Brent Miller	Justin Swiatowiec	Alex Putz

(Continued on page 16)

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

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Operations-Stations and Personnel Assignments, cont'd.

(Continued from page 15)



Fire Station #3 – 2901 Campton Hills Road
West Side

Engine 103	Lt. Darin Peterson	Lt. Jim Kurczek	Capt. Joel Meeter
	Phil Kuhn	Mike Mustard	Tim Masinick
	Don Fruland	Tim McCarthy	Trevor Kelly
	Rainier Galliano	Chris Thomas	Patrick Lacey
Medic 153	Trent Moser	Patrick Mayer	Steve Williams
	Brian Johnston	Andrew Shad	Tyler Assell

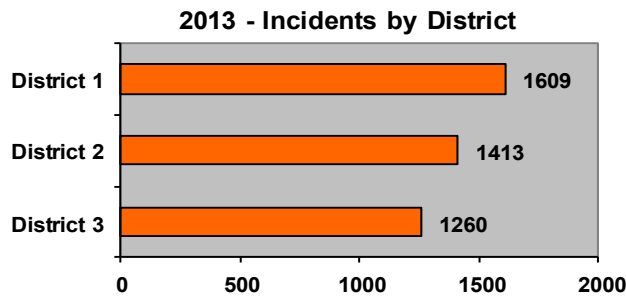
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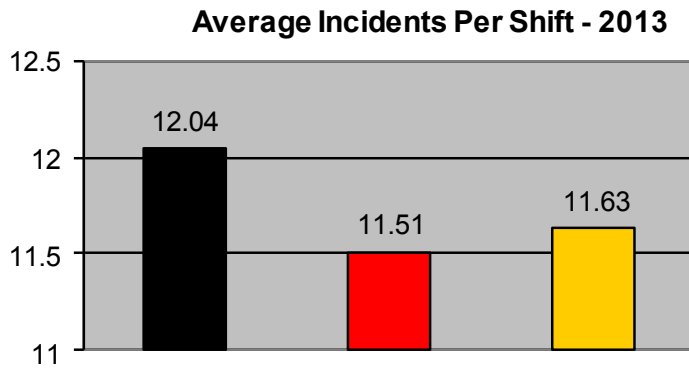
Operations - Responses

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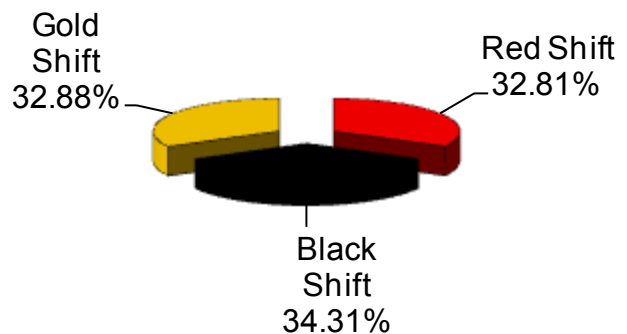


The response district covered by Fire Station #1 continued to be the most active with 1609 incidents during 2013.

The Black Shift was once again the busiest shift during 2013. With 12.04 incidents per shift, the Black Shift led the St. Charles Fire Department. This was followed by Gold Shift at 11.63 and then the Red Shift at 11.51 incidents per 24-hour shift.



Incident Breakdown By Shift - 2013



(Continued on page 18)

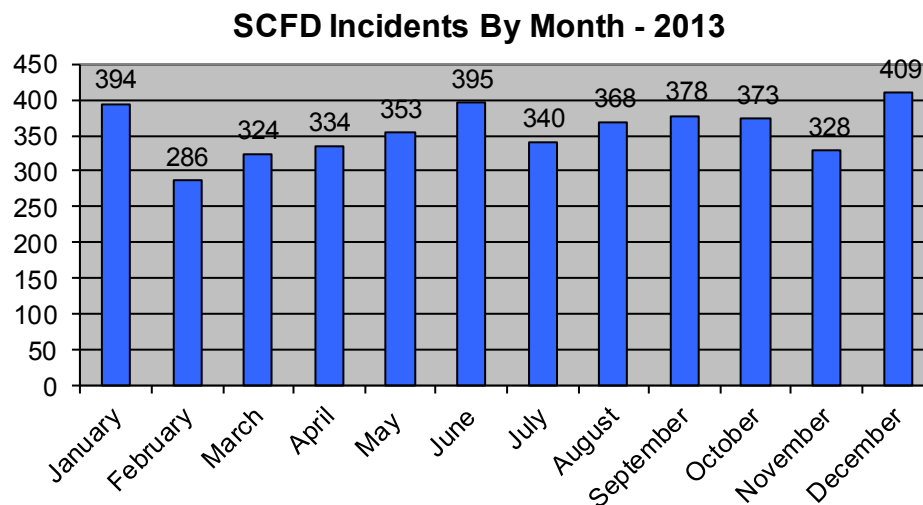
St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

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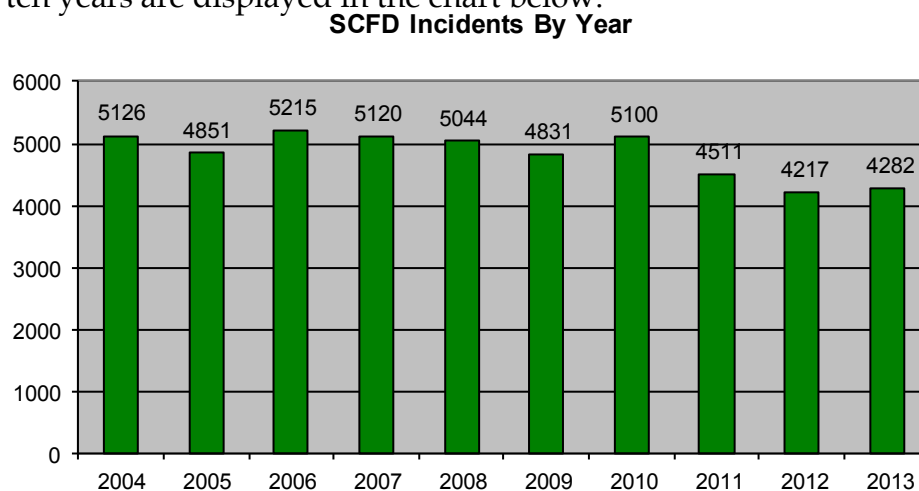
Operations Incidents.

(Continued from page 17)

The months of December and June, with 409 and 395 incidents respectively, were the busiest periods during 2013.



The St. Charles Fire Department handled 4282 incidents during 2013. The total annual responses for the past ten years are displayed in the chart below.



(Continued on page 19)

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

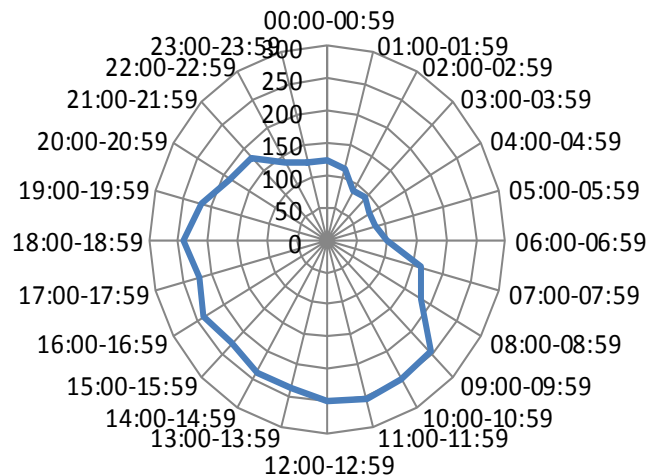
Operations - Incidents, cont'd.

(Continued from page 18)

Breakdown of Incidents by Protection Zone		
Zone	Incident Count	% of Incidents
City of St. Charles	3747	87.69%
Mutual Aid	526	12.30%

Since the type of emergency incident and the time at which any incident might occur is unknown, the St. Charles Fire Department must be prepared and ready to respond twenty-four hours per day, seven days a week. A review of the time of day that emergency incidents occurred during 2013, the bulk of the total incidents continue to occur during the period from 7:00 a.m. through 11:00 p.m. each day.

2013 Incidents by Time of Day



(Continued on page 20)

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

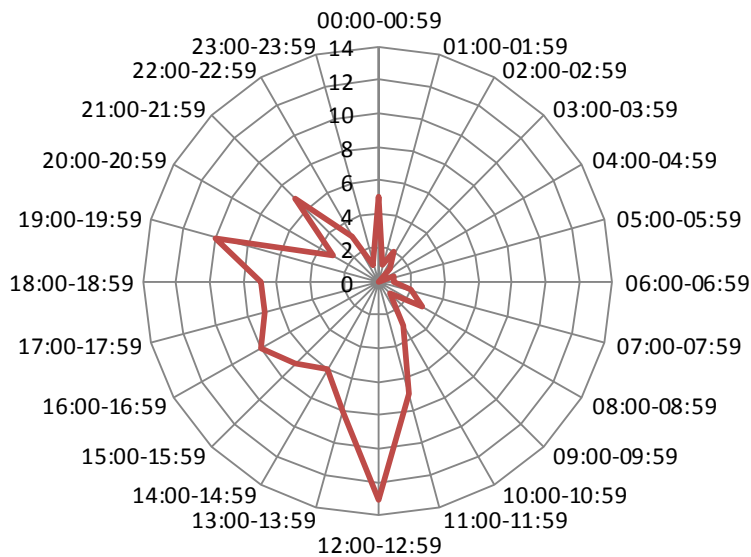
2013

Operations - Incidents, cont'd.

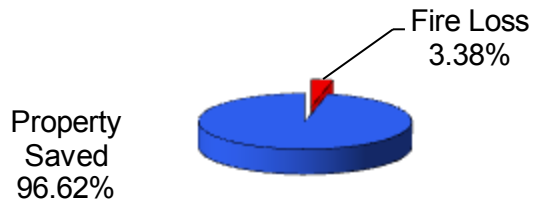
(Continued from page 19)

The time of day when fires actually occurred during 2013 shows that the afternoon from noon to 8 p.m. was the most active period for responses to fires. A further look reveals that fire incidents occurred during every period, except from 4 am to 5 am. The most active periods are shown by spikes throughout the morning, afternoon, evening.

2013 Fire Incidents by Time of Day



Fire Loss and Property Saved - 2013



	Amount	Percentage
Value of Property	\$ 16,662,720	100.00%
Fire Losses	\$ 562,420	3.38%
Property Saved	\$ 16,100,300	96.62%

Assistant Chief of Operations
Scott Swanson

Operations - Water Rescue

"Surrounded by impenetrable darkness, you slide your hands and body over the soft mud of the bottom. The only sound is the hiss and gurgle of your regulator, punctuated at intervals by the voice of your tender, giving you directions by way of an underwater communications system."

This is the reality of public safety diving while conducting searches for human victims or evidence underwater. Most of the time the water we dive in is called blackwater due to the fact that visibility is extremely limited or non-existent. Sometimes, as in diving under the ice, there is very limited space and limited entry/escape options. These conditions combine at least two land based hazardous environments in to the same operation. The underwater



environment is both a confined space and IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health) area. The divers working under these conditions cannot simply end an operation by removing their mask or in the case of ice overhead, surface immediately. Public safety divers must be both physically and psychologically ready to meet these challenges in a moment's notice. We do not choose when someone will submerge and be in need of immediate rescue. Therefore, we train and then train some

more so that we can better accomplish our goals and go home safe at the end of the day.

"Drowning is the third most common cause of accidental death among adults in the United States, and it is the second most common cause of death among children and young adults." And while the rescue of the drowning victim is always our primary goal, many times we are tasked with recovering a body or evidence of a crime.

Fortunately our Underwater Rescue and Recovery Team (Dive Team) is not called out often. During 2013, we did not receive any incidents that required our response. In previous years we have not been as lucky. In the future, it would be nice to think that our services will not be needed but unfortunately history has shown that luck will only hold out so long.

During 2013, our eleven divers continued to train for their future assignments. During the year, we had one diver resign from the team and another firefighter join the team. This new

(Continued on page 22)

Operations - Water Rescue, cont'd.

(Continued from page 21)

man on the team has not yet completed initial training and cannot yet be used as a diver. We already put him to work as a dive tender for our ice dive in December.

Of the current operational divers, all are certified as Public Safety Divers and nine are currently trained as Swiftwater Technicians. Six of our ten operational divers are certified to dive under the ice if that becomes necessary.

All of our divers are required to complete a minimum of four open water dives per year. If ice certified, one of the four must be in/under the ice. All divers must also complete an annual evaluation of their physical and technical skills by passing the IADRS Watermanship and Basic Scuba Skills test.

This was not one of our best years for training in that three of our divers were off work for extended periods of time due to medical reasons. Two divers are now back to work and will be making up lost training as soon as possible.

Two divers in addition to the three that were off will still need to complete the IADRS testing. I have no doubt that they will all pass in that all have passed without any problem in past years. Testing will be completed as time and schedules allow.



During the past year, in addition to training, the team improved diver safety by purchasing "changeover blocks." The department worked out a trade-in agreement with DJ's Scuba to get a very good purchase price for the blocks. DJ's accepted the department's old full face dive masks that had been replaced the previous year as trade-ins and then offered a tremendous price on the new blocks. This agreement saved the department over \$1400. The dive shop then provided free delivery and installation of the blocks along with a pool training

(Continued on page 23)

Operations - Water Rescue, cont'd.

(Continued from page 22)

session to familiarize our personnel with the proper operation of the system. This proved to be a very good deal for our team and we are grateful to DJ's for their assistance.

The St. Charles Fire Department dive team will continue to train and prepare for the next operation that all hope does not occur. Most of us will never need the services of the dive rescue/recovery team but for those who do, the service is invaluable. We hope to continue to provide the level of service to the community that is expected and will do so by training hard and providing the divers with the most up to date equipment so that they all return home safe at the end of the day.

A special thanks to all those who helped us achieve our goals during 2013.

The City of St. Charles

DJ's Scuba

The St. Charles Fire Department

Norris Recreation Center

The Foreign Fire Insurance Tax board

Hilton Garden Inn

St. Charles Park District

*Captain Leo Veseling
Water Rescue Team Leader*



Operations - Technical Rescue.

Below is a summary of the news, activities and events of the Technical Rescue Team in 2013.

Team Leadership

The MABAS 13 Technical Rescue Team has a new Team Leader, Lt. Kevin Forest from the Geneva Fire Department. Lt. Forest replaced Assistant Chief Lockwood from Aurora Fire. Lt. Forest is very active with technical rescue and has been an instructor for the Southern Kane County Training Academy and Illinois Fire Service Institute, teaching technical rescue and other topics. One of the major priorities for LT Forest is to increase our roster of technicians that are deployable for statewide call outs.

MABAS has restructured how divisional special teams respond to statewide call out incidents. Teams must have at least 20 credentialed members before they are deployable to statewide incidents. In order to become credentialed, the team member must be trained to technician level in rope, trench, confined space, and structural collapse rescue. After he or she completes this training a criminal background check is conducted. If all is OK, the technician is issued an ID card as a MABAS TRT Responder. In the event of a state wide TRT response, the team will send 10 technicians to the incident and 10 would remain at home. Currently we have 18 credentialed members, so we need to bring 2 more on to be a deployable team again.



It is important to note that MABAS 13 TRT is still ready and prepared to respond to local incidents and mutual aid requests. If St Charles or a neighboring community requests the TRT through mutual aid we would respond as normal, bringing techs and equipment to the scene.

Training

The MABAS TRT completed two team drills for 2013, a trench rescue drill in the spring and rope rescue training in the fall. The division TRT also conducted an "in house" vertical II class. Team members that were lacking training as a high angle rescue technician were trained in house, helping us to increase our deployable roster. This 40 hour class covered advanced rope rescue skills in-

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St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Operations - Technical Rescue, cont'd.

(Continued from page 24)

cluding lowering victims in a litter with rope, self-rescue techniques from rope; "pick offs," where a rescuer rappels to a victim, secures the victim to the rescuer, then lowers themselves to the ground; as well as other advanced rope skills.

I am happy to report that St. Charles added two more members to the Technical rescue team in 2013, FF PM Tony Cavallo and FF PM Patrick Lacey. Tony already has some tech rescue training and is certified in rope and trench rescue operations. Both members will be added to the MABAS Team Training roster. This allows us to cover their training expenses under the Illinois Terrorism Task Force Grant.

Looking Forward to 2014

We have scheduled four training sessions for St Charles TRT members and are planning our MABAS team training for the year as well. We will also be reviewing the MABAS 13 TRT



SOGs and updating them where needed. We will be looking to get our new members sent to as many training classes as practical in order to increase our number of technicians and maximize the ITTF grant. And finally, we will be reviewing our equipment needs and making budget plans for eventual replacement of perishable gear, such as PPE, rope and such. Keeping our skills up, our equipment ready, and the team adequately staffed are important goals. We will continue to do the best that we can with the resources that are available.

*Captain Joel Meeter
TRT Leader*

Operations - Hazmat

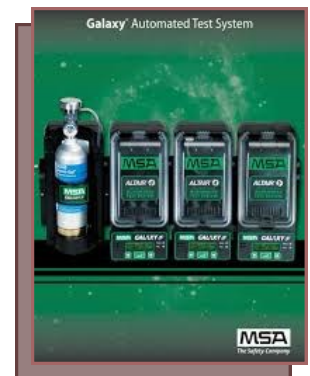
While not particularly busy with incidents, the Hazardous Materials Response team remained in a constant state of readiness to respond and mitigate incidents to best of our ability. We started off the year with members participating in the MABAS 13 HMRT training which is held on a quarterly basis, this is a great opportunity for department members to train with members of other departments within our division and receive advanced training on various topics within the realm of hazardous materials mitigation.

No major equipment additions were made to the team in 2013; we again focused on maintaining our current assets and performing training with them. We did have to replace some consumable items that had reached their expiration dates and failed one level A entry suit during the annual suit testing that was performed by Wes Gosser. During 2013, the Department underwent a comprehensive evaluation via the accreditation process. The Hazardous Materials team was evaluated, while we performed well, the process discovered some items that could be improved upon including a better utilization of technology, a review of Tier II reporting and other minor improvements that are going to be addressed in the coming year.



The Department made a significant upgrade to our atmospheric monitoring program in 2013. We have been able to migrate all of our 4-gas and single gas meters to a single source manufacturer. All Department fire apparatus

now have MSA carbon monoxide detectors; all front line fire apparatus now have MSA 4- gas meters which detect carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, oxygen levels and explosive gasses. In addition to these meters, all fire apparatus have natural gas detectors, Command 112 now has a hydrogen cyanide detector and Engine 102 has a Chlorine detector. We also purchased a calibration station housed at Station #2 which can automatically calibrate these meters with the push of a single button allowing any department member the ability to calibrate a meter when needed.



We look forward to continued support by the administration and city in 2014, as we have attained the level of response readiness that was set forth by the team mission statement. With the ever changing field of hazardous materials mitigation, we will continue to educate ourselves with the newest information and latest technology to keep the citizens of our community and environment safe for all to enjoy.

Joe Davila
Hazardous Materials Team Leader

Bureau of Safety

The Occupational Safety and Health Committee members are responsible for discussing matters relating to the health, safety and welfare for members of the Department. The Committee meets monthly to discuss and make recommendations pertaining to possible hazards in the workplace. The Committee also reviews any work-related accidents or injuries and makes recommendations to prevent similar occurrences.

The 2013 Occupational Safety & Health Committee members were represented by the following individuals:

Chief Joe Schelstreet

Captain Lance Maxwell

Assistant Chief Kevin Christensen

Captain Joel Meeter

Captain Leo Veseling

Lieutenant Jeremy Mauthe

Below are some of the highlights of the Committee's health and safety recommendations during the past year.

Facilities

- ✓ Class I safety climbing belts used for ascending and descending the Hose Tower were replaced at Station #2 & #3.
- ✓ Regulators and airlines were modified on the apparatus floor at each Station to allow for proper apparatus tire inflation.

Equipment

- ✓ Specialty team trailers were evaluated for the proper towing and tongue weight capacities.
- ✓ The trailer hitch for Brush 101 was modified to accommodate a larger towing capacity.

Other

- ✓ The annual update of the Department's material safety data sheets was completed.
- ✓ The procedure for requesting approved Station footwear was modified to include current ANSI standards.

(Continued on page 28)

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Bureau of Safety, cont'd.

(Continued from page 27)

- ✓ The Department mandated a driver's license classification upgrade due to a change in vehicle towing capacities.

Fire Department Work Related Injuries

The committee reviewed eight fire department employee work-related injuries this past year. This included four OSHA recordable and four OSHA non-recordable injuries. All of the employees were evaluated at a medical facility which resulted in a total time of 26 days of lost time at work and 162 days assigned to light duty. There were four work-related injuries the previous year which represents a 50 percent increase in injuries for the current year.

Loss Cause Detail	# of Employees
Reaching	1
Overexertion	1
Animal	1
Caught Between Objects	2
Slip/Trip/Fall	3

Loss Type Detail	# of Employees
Sprain/Strain	4
Bite	1
Contusion	3

Body Part Detail	# of Employees
Wrist	1
Knee	2
Multiple Body Parts	1
Finger	1
Thumb	1
Ankle	1
Back	1

**Information obtained from 2013 OSHA 300 Log*

(Continued on page 29)

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Bureau of Safety, cont'd.

(Continued from page 28)

The committee reviewed two fire department employee vehicle accidents. There was one employee vehicle accident the previous year which represents a 50 percent increase in accidents for the current year.

Fire Department Work Related Vehicle Accidents

<i>Nature of the Accident</i>	<i># of Accidents</i>
Backing Striking Fixed Object	1
Striking Overhead Object	1

<i>Type of Apparatus / Vehicles Involved</i>	<i># of Accidents</i>
Ambulance	1
Truck	1

<i>Damage Estimates</i>	<i># of Accidents</i>
< \$500	2
\$500 - \$1500	0
> \$1500	0

*Assistant Chief Kevin Christensen
Support Services, Training & Safety Chief*

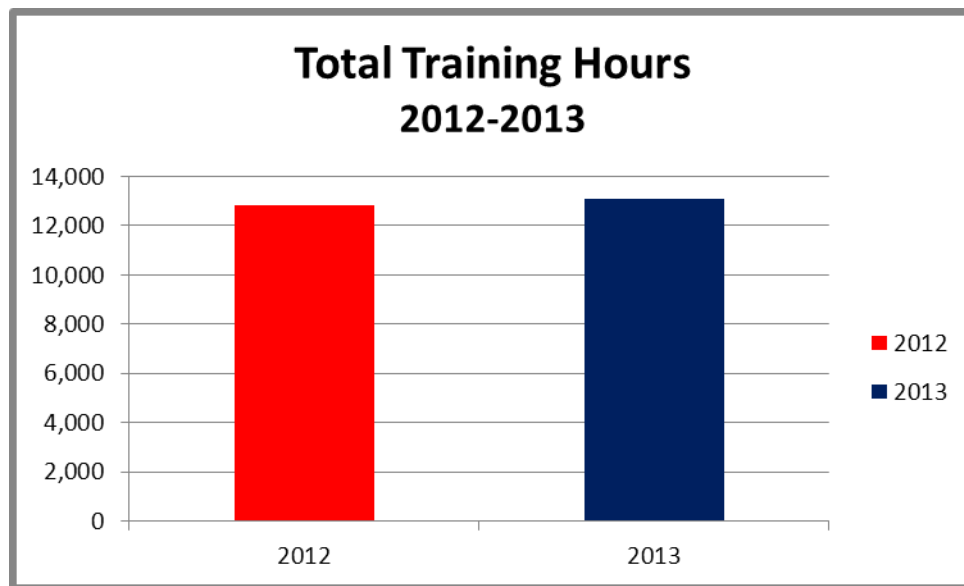
Bureau of Training

The function of the Bureau of Training is to ensure effective and efficient performance of fire department members by assuring all personnel are taught and qualified to City and department benchmarks as well as any relevant mandatory or elective standards as adopted by the fire department.

Bureau responsibilities include: management of the department training program, coordination of Specialty Team training (Technical Rescue Team, Water Rescue Team, Hazardous Materials Team, Fire Investigation Team), liaison with ancillary training organizations (Illinois Fire Service Institute, Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors, Office of the State Fire Marshal, MABAS), evaluation of program effectiveness and maintenance of training records and reports.

The Training Division is responsible for developing and distributing a monthly training calendar and job performance standards associated with each of the training topics listed for the month. Company Officers are responsible for the training program delivery for each of their members.

Firefighters completed a combined total of 13,057 training hours which represents a 1.9 percent increase from the previous year's total of 12,814 training hours.



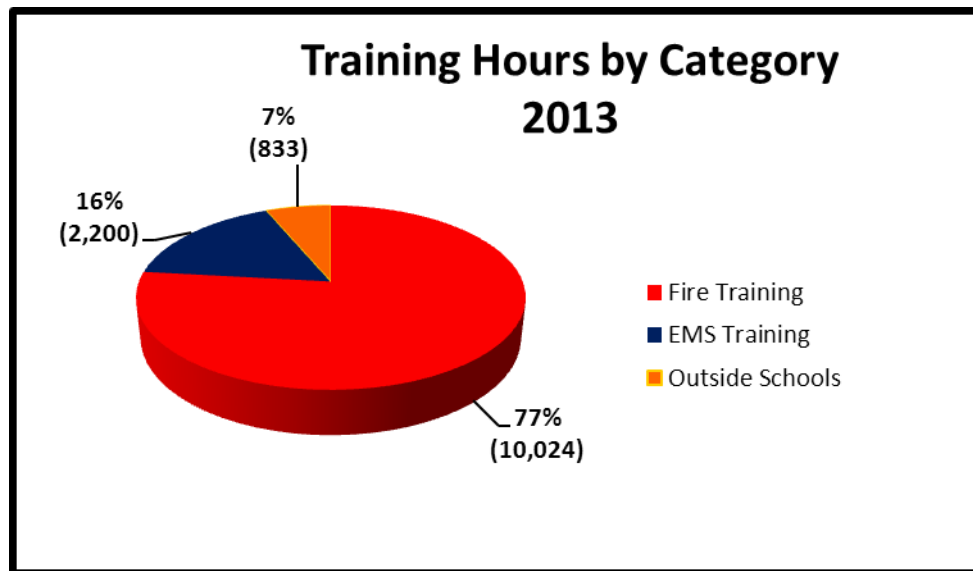
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Bureau of Training, cont'd.

(Continued from page 30)

Target training hours per full-time firefighter is 20 hours per month, 60 hours per quarter and 240 hours annually. For the calendar year, 85 percent (33 out of 39) of the firefighters met and/or exceeded the target of 240 hours per year. The previous year 78 percent (30 out of 39) of the firefighters met and/or exceeded the target of 240 hours per year. There was a 7 percent increase in firefighters who met and/or exceeded the annual target training from the previous year. Firefighters who did not meet the minimum annual target training hours can be attributed to extended time off due to injuries and/or illnesses.

The breakdown of total training hours for the calendar year by category is the following: Fire Training - 10,024 hours (77%), Emergency Medical Services Training - 2,200 hours (16%), Outside Schools - 833 hours (7%).



(Continued on page 32)

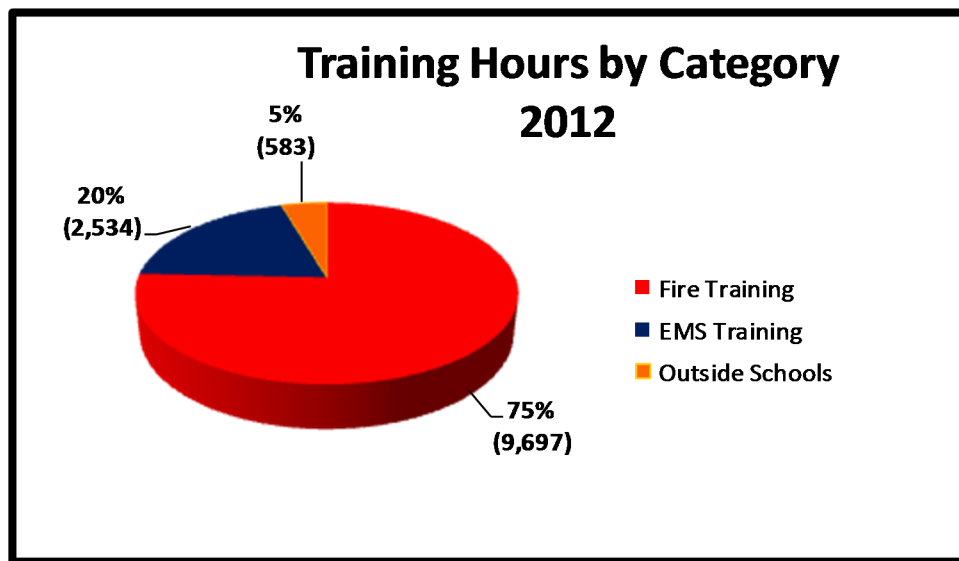
St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Bureau of Training, cont'd.

(Continued from page 31)

Comparing training hours by category to the previous year, there was a 3.5 percent increase in Fire training hours, a 13 percent decrease in Emergency Medical Services training hours and a 44 percent increase in Outside School training hours.



The following personnel are recognized for attaining Office of the State Fire Marshal certifications during the 2013 calendar year.

Lt. Brian Byrne	<i>Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Specialist</i>
Lt. Anthony Centimano	<i>Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Specialist</i>
FF/PM David Chmelar	<i>Watercraft Technician</i>
FF/PM Steve Dries	<i>Hazardous Materials Technician A</i>
FF/PM Wes Gosser	<i>Trench Operations</i>
Lt. John Kessler	<i>Fire Service Instructor II</i>
	<i>Fire Officer II – Provisional</i>

(Continued on page 33)

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Bureau of Training, cont'd.

(Continued from page 32)

Lt. Jim Kurczek	<i>Fire Service Instructor I</i>
	<i>Fire Service Instructor II</i>
	<i>Fire Officer I</i>
	<i>Fire Officer II – Provisional</i>
FF/PM Patrick Lacey	<i>Vehicle & Machinery Operations</i>
	<i>Advanced Technician Firefighter</i>
Lt. Jeremy Mauthe	<i>Fire Service Vehicle Operator</i>
	<i>Advanced Technician Firefighter</i>
	<i>Fire Officer I</i>
	<i>Fire Officer II – Provisional</i>
Capt. Joel Meeter	<i>Fire Department Incident Safety Officer</i>
Lt. Darin Peterson	<i>Fire Service Instructor II</i>



Assistant Chief Kevin Christensen
Support Services Chief



It's all to do with the training: you can do a lot if you're properly trained."

- Elizabeth II, Queen of Great Britain

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Operations - Emergency Medical Services.

The purpose of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is to assure the delivery of quality pre-hospital care to the sick and injured of the St. Charles Community. All full-time and contract personnel are involved in the provision of emergency medical services functions to some degree. As such, personnel respond to medical emergencies and administer life saving measures as defined by the State Department of Public Health and Southern Fox Valley EMS protocol for a certified Paramedic in Advance Life Support (ALS) or Emergency Medical Technician. All personnel are operating under standing medical orders developed and approved by this system. Personnel are expected to maintain their licensing through this system by continuing education, training hours and recertification. As requests for our EMS average over 60% of the Department's call volume, this is a large responsibility.

The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services were represented by the following individuals:

Chief Joe Schelstreet

Battalion Chief Marty Friel

Lieutenant Tony Centimano

John Schultz, TCA Administrator

FF/PM Jason Peterson

PM Art Lloyd

FF/PM Mike Pyzyna

PM Matt Gorney

PM Trent Moser

PM Patrick Mayer



Bariatric Power Cot Training

(Continued on page 35)

Operations - Emergency Medical Services.

(Continued from page 34)

Following are highlights from the past year.

- 🚒 Completed the EMS portion, changeling for Accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.
- 🚒 Implementation of a new supply system to provide equipment to our ALS and BLS units.
- 🚒 Review and adjustment of our drug supply format to assist availability to both transport and non-transport units.
- 🚒 Review and adjustment of our “in-house” EMS training to assist the providers in completing the required hands on system training.
- 🚒 Completion of our “EMS Commitment Papers” outlining to the EMS system and the State Health Department our coverage area, level of service and response times.
- 🚒 Creating an Infection Control Officer Program to provide a safer work environment for our providers.

The Bureau of EMS is now researching a “Mobile Integrated Healthcare” type program to ascertain if it would be a benefit to our community. This type of program involves enhancing existing healthcare systems or resources, and filling the resource gaps within the community. This could be an opportunity for EMS to evolve into a fully integrated component of our healthcare system. These types of programs move to transform from a transportation system-focused on stabilizing and transporting patients to a mobile integrated healthcare system that is focused on:

- ❖ Patient education, consultation and dispatch;
- ❖ Primary or discharge follow up care
- ❖ Navigating patients to appropriate alternative healthcare destinations.

It has not been determined if these types of “non-emergency” programs would be a good fit for our community. We will keep you informed.

*Battalion Chief Marty Friel
Chief of EMS*

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Facilities

2013 was the year of fixing, updating, and getting things right. Because Station #2 and #3 are 27 and 25 years old, some updating was in order. Station #1 on the other hand entailed fixing problems that occurred during construction of the new fire station.

Station #1 – When Station #1 was built, the general contractor for the HVAC programed the control panel in a way that only their company had access to the controls that monitored the heat and air conditioning. That particular contractor is no longer in business. Johnson Controls installed a new control panel so city personnel would have the ability to control the heat and cooling systems for the Fire Administration and IS floors.

From the time we moved into Station #1, we had nothing but problems with the apparatus overhead doors. Public Services hired a new contractor in 2013, Raynor Door Authority. Raynor was able to diagnose the problem and repair the doors. We have not had overhead door issues since.

Station #2 is the oldest of the three fire stations. Construction of the station was completed in 1986, therefore it was time for some updating. Projects that we were able to complete are as follows: New apparatus overhead doors, landscaping in front of the hose tower, new countertops and painting of the kitchen cabinets.

Significant expenditures occurred at Station #2 when repairs of the original station generator were done and the station radio needed servicing because of Tri-Com upgrading their radios to digital.

Station #3 also had some updating done in 2013. New counter tops and painting of the kitchen cabinets were completed. The old carpet in the workout room was replaced with a commercial rubber mat. This mat is easier to keep clean and protects the floor.

A new internal work order program for facility repairs called St. Charles Connect was introduced in 2013. St. Charles Connect allows you to take a picture of the noted repair and submit the request either by phone (using an app) or on a desktop computer. The biggest advantage of this program is that it allows the fire department to view submitted requests for repairs. This product replaced the former Customer Service Request program that was Lotus Notes based.

*Nick McManus
Battalion Chief, Facilities and Fleet*

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Fleet

Times have changed since August 1916 when our fire department purchased our first motorized fire truck. The DeKalb fire truck (as it was called) had a 40 horsepower motor that ran on gasoline and cost \$2742.40. Today's front run Ladder Truck has a 525 horsepower diesel motor and cost \$710,000.00.

Obviously, the cost of our apparatus and the size of our fleet have increased dramatically since 1916. Our current fleet consists of 21 motorized vehicles: ranging from ladder trucks, fire engines, boats, rescue squad, water tender, ambulances, utility vehicles, and command cars. All these vehicles are necessary in order to live up to our mission.

It was not that long ago that all maintenance and repairs were performed by fire department personnel in-house. Bill Hultine, Ralph Swanson and Jeff Swanson lead the way. It was common place to find Captain Ralph Swanson up late into the evening or on his days off working on our apparatus to keep them running.

With 200 Fleet Trouble Reports being generated by fire department personnel in 2013, and the technical aspect of apparatus, the need for a full time mechanic is apparent. Currently, Fleet has a dedicated certified mechanic just to maintain the fire department's fleet, Stan Iglehart. Stan became a Level One Emergency Vehicle Technician in 2013.



This work load kept Stan extremely busy. This past year, FF Mike Mustard, FF/P Joe Davila, and FF/P Steve Dries volunteered to assist in the day-to-day of minor repairs and upkeep of the apparatus. Their involvement has helped keep our apparatus in service when otherwise the vehicle would have gone to Fleet. Their efforts have been a huge asset to our Department.

Some of the big jobs in 2013 were the repair of the out-riggers on Truck 102, rebuilding the motor and repairing cracks on the airboat, and ongoing issues with Medic 152.

More than ever the need for maintaining out of service is apparent. Chief Schelstreet put more emphasis on record keeping in 2013. Nonda created a record keeping reporting system in Fire-

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St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Fleet, cont'd.

(Continued from page 37)

house. This system helps track how much time a vehicle is out of service. A few bugs were worked out in order to enter the data in Firehouse to help get consistent data relevant to the downtime of an apparatus. This was done by creating a new way of gathering data while entering into this reporting system.

2013 saw the replacement of the old zodiac boat, Brush 101, and Medic 152. In 2014 we will be replacing two ten year old command cars, the 27 year old airboat, and an ambulance. These purchases will help cut down the out of service hours we recorded in 2013.

*Nick McManus
Battalion Chief Facilities & Fleet*



Firemen's Pension Fund

The Firemen's Pension Fund saw some changes and activity for 2013. I will review some of the highlights of the year.

Craig Hanson's term as an Active Firefighter Trustee expired in April. As mentioned before, although BC Hanson retired from the Fire Department during his term, he was still an Active Firefighter Trustee until his term expired. An election was held and Nick Marqui was elected to the position for a three year term. As a new Trustee, Nick had to attend 32 hours of training, which he completed through the Illinois Public Pension Fund Association.

The Pension Fund Board is composed of five Trustees: two Active Firefighters, one retired, and two appointed by the Mayor. The newly elected Mayor Rogina reappointed Finance Director Chris Minick. He also appointed City Treasurer, Warren Drewes to replace retired Chief Patrick Mullen, who was appointed by the previous Mayor. Statutes require an election of officers annually. The Board elected Steve Fuller as President and Joel Meeter as Secretary.

Pension Board members are required to complete 16 hours of pension and ethics training every year. Steve Fuller, Chris Minick and Warren Drewes completed their training through Judson College in September. Joel Meeter completed his by attending the Illinois Public Pension Fund Association Annual Conference in October.

Some other items that were acted on by the Board:

- Jeff Swanson and Joel Meeter purchased two years of pension creditable service time for military service.
- Victor Lopez requested, and was granted, a refund of his pension contributions after separating from service.
- Brad Wilton requested, and was granted, to combine his pension creditable service time with his time at Carpentersville Fire.
- Don Fruland submitted an application for a non-duty disability pension, which he later withdrew.
- The DOI conducted a routine audit of the fund.

The fund's investments did well last year. Here are some key points from the annual statement for the FYE April 30, 2013.

- The fund held assets valued at about \$29,326,000.

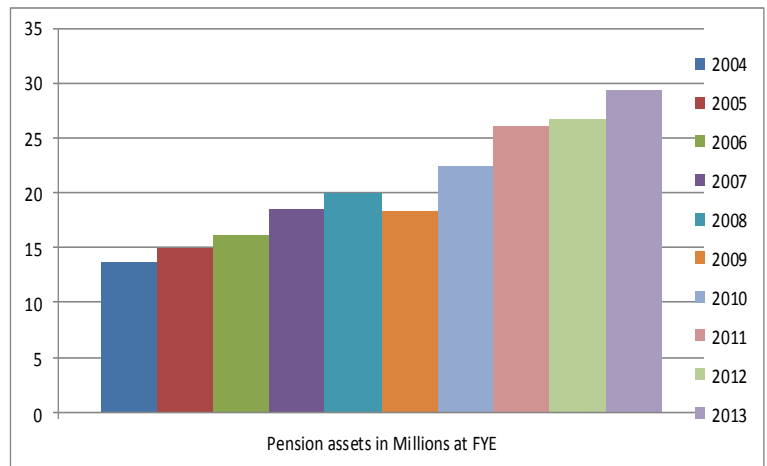
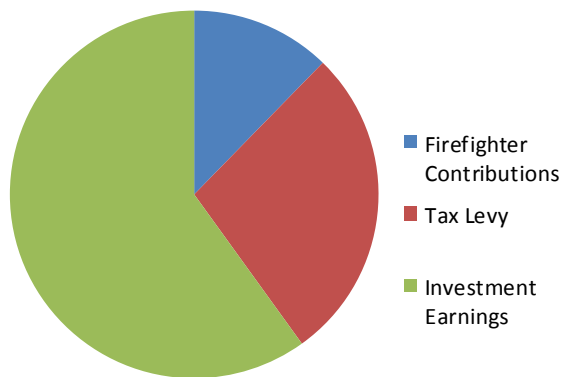
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Firemen's Pension Fund

(Continued from page 39)

- Firefighters contributed approximately \$463,000.
- The pension property tax levy contributed about \$1,046,000.
- Earnings on investments were 8.4% which contributed about \$2,257,000.
- The fund paid out about \$1,046,000 in pensions to 17 beneficiaries, consisting of regular, disability, and survivor pensions.

Pension Fund Income 2013



Looking forward to 2014 the Board of trustees will work on addressing some minor issues brought up during the audit, electing a new FF Trustee to replace Joel Meeter, reviewing our contract with our investment Consultant, and updating the Investment Policy Statement.

Captain Joel Meeter
Firemen's Pension Fund Secretary

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Tri-City Ambulance Service

In 2013, Tri-City Ambulance (TCA) continued to provide exemplary care while striving to remain a leader in EMS in a fiscally responsible manner. TCA ordered the replacement ambulance for M-153. The new ambulance is identical in specifications as M-152 and delivery is expected in late March or early April 2014. TCA retrofitted Geneva Medic 252 to operate as a bariatric unit. The ambulance is equipped with a power cot and the power load system and is available to all of the Tri-Cities. In 2013 TCA began the process to become only the second ambulance service in Illinois to become accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS).

Call Volume

Tri-City Ambulance responded to 6,110 calls for service and transported 4,448 patients in 2013. This represents a increase of 143 (3%) calls for service and 60 (3%) more transports than 2012. 2013 calls for service exceeded the total calls for service in 2011; which was the last calendar year TCA served the Fox River & Countryside Fire/Rescue District. The City of Geneva re-

Tri-City Ambulance Monthly Report 01/01/2013 thru 12/31/2013						
	St Chas 152	St Chas 153	Geneva 251	Batavia 51	Batavia 52	Total
Response/Origin of Service						
Geneva/City	28	111	838	21	136	1134
Geneva Twnshp	1	3	13	3	3	23
Batavia/City	3	4	54	1057	798	1916
Batavia Twnship	0	0	0	25	55	80
St Charles/City	1127	1134	56	2	7	2326
St Charles FPD	0	0	0	0	0	0
Out of District	13	3	6	18	22	62
Total Amb Resp	1172	1255	967	1126	1021	5541
Fire Responses	37	30	215	154	133	569
Total Responses	1209	1285	1182	1280	1154	6110
Hospital Distribution						
Delnor	878	980	754	836	718	4166
CDH	53	14	12	13	15	107
Mercy	1	1	6	63	65	136
Sherman	1	1	0	0	0	2
St Joes	2	10	1	0	0	13
Copley/Edwards	0	0	0	2	2	4
Total Transports	935	1006	773	914	800	4428
Non-Transports	340	407	259	284	258	1548
Treat/No Transport	9	20	7	9	31	76
Total Pts Seen	1284	1433	1039	1207	1089	6052

(Continued on page 42)

Tri-City Ambulance Service, cont'd.

(Continued from page 41)

mained steady with only a reduction of 6 calls for service; the City of Batavia saw an increase of 38 calls for service and the City of St. Charles saw an increase in calls for service by 51.

Replacement of 153

Tri-City Ambulance ordered the replacement ambulance for 153 with a expected delivery in March of 2014. The new 153 will be the second ambulance purchased by TCA with an International chassis. The new ambulance will be virtually identical to M-152, including the addition of the power cot. This unit will be the first Horton ambulance in our fleet. Last year Medtec stopped producing ambulances, Foster Coach, our local Medtec dealer became the local representative for Horton and was accepted as the successful ambulance bidder for the Northwest Municipal Conference Suburban Purchasing Cooperative.

Retrofit of 252

Tri-City Ambulance retrofitted Geneva Medic 252 in 2013 for the transport of bariatric patients. TCA has recognized the increase of calls for service for bariatric patients and the unique challenges they present. The ambulance was equipped with a power cot and the Power Load system by Stryker. The system is designed to handle patients up to 700 Lbs. The power cot can lift the patient on the cot from the floor to the load position. The Power Load system lifts the patient on the cot into the back of the ambulance with very little assistance from the crews. The system is safer for the patient and greatly reduces the risk of injury to the crews providing treatment. The unit is stationed at Geneva Station 1, but is available to respond anywhere in the Tri-Cities.



(Continued on page 43)

Tri-City Ambulance Service, cont'd.

(Continued from page 42)

Accreditation

In March of 1982, the American Ambulance Association (AAA) sponsored a needs assessment to analyze the status of the EMS industry. The participants compiled a list of twenty most pressing issues facing emergency medical services, the first of which was the need for high quality industry standards. In 1990, an independent Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) was incorporated. This commission brought together leaders from all medical fields involved in emergency medicine including; Doctors, Nurses, Paramedics, Fire Chiefs and State EMS Directors. The result was the definition of the "gold standard" for the medical transportation industry, above and beyond the requirements established by local and state authorities for licensing.



In 2013 TCA began the process of a "self-assessment" to see how our current operation compares to the gold standard. While TCA already meets many of the standards, some changes are needed. The spring of 2014 will start the rollout of new policies and procedures to meet the current standards. TCA is projecting to submit our application for accreditation in late spring or early summer with a site visit in late summer early fall. TCA fully expects to become only the second accredited agency in the State of Illinois by the end of the 2014 calendar year.



*John Schultz,
TCA Administrator*

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

2013 Promotions and Beginnings



At left, Captain Joel Meeter and Battalion Chief Nick McManus.

At right, Lieutenant Anthony Centimano.



At right, Fire Chief Joe Schelstreet.



At left, Assistant Chief Scott Swanson.

At right. Firefighter/Paramedic Chad Tinsley.



2013 Achievements



Members of the Accreditation Team and the Peer Assessors at the conclusion of the site assessment visit.

The St. Charles Fire Department was awarded Accreditation Status from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International on August 15 at the annual commission hearings held in Chicago.



St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

2013 Milestones



The St. Charles Emergency Management Agency achieved Certified Status through IEMA. This is the first step towards accreditation for the group.



Carole Murphy completed the Illinois Fire Service Executive Support Program sponsored by Illinois Fire Service Administrative Professionals. This 12-week program covers all aspects of the fire service including operations, prevention, EMS, public education , communications, and administration.

St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

Community Involvement



Marty Friel, Kevin Christensen, Tony Cavallo and Chip Voelsch were members of the City Dragon Boat team at Pride of the Fox Riverfest.



Truck 102 all decked out for the Holiday Electric Light Parade.



Engine 102 leading the Cambridge East 4th of July Neighborhood parade.

Department members, their families and City representatives serve dinner to the residents of Hunt Club Village. This event is sponsored by IAFF Local 3322 and is rotated amongst the senior living facilities in St. Charles.



St Charles Fire Department Annual Report

2013

2013 St. Charles Fire Department Roster

Administration

Fire Chief Joe Schelstreet
Assistant Chief Scott Swanson
Sr. Administrative Assistant Nonda
Anderson
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Paul
Bumba
TCA Administrator John Schultz

Support Services/Fire Prevention Bureau

Assistant Chief Kevin Christensen
Lieutenant Brian Byrne
Administrative Assistant Carole Murphy

Black Shift

Acting Battalion Chief Lance Maxwell
Lieutenant John Kessler
Lieutenant Scott Schaben
Lieutenant Darin Peterson
Firefighter Guy Gresser
Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Marqui
Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Hansen
Firefighter/Paramedic Rainier Galliano
Firefighter/Paramedic Don Fruland
Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Peterson
Firefighter/Paramedic Steve Dries
Firefighter Phil Kuhn
Paramedic Trent Moser
Paramedic Brian Johnston
Paramedic Mike Gorney
Paramedic Brent Miller

Red Shift

Battalion Chief Nick McManus
Captain Leo Veseling
Lieutenant Jim Kurczek
Lieutenant Mike Schaben
Lieutenant Jeremy Mauthe
Firefighter Mike Mustard
Firefighter Chip Voelsch
Firefighter/Paramedic Tim McCarthy
Firefighter/Paramedic Dave Chmelar
Firefighter/Paramedic Cliff Lo
Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Tarro
Firefighter/Paramedic Mike Pyzyna
Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Thomas
Firefighter/Paramedic Chad Tinsley
Paramedic Gwen Mayer
Paramedic Justin Swiatowiec
Paramedic Pat Mayer
Paramedic Andrew Shad

Gold Shift

Battalion Chief Marty Friel
Captain Joel Meeter
Lieutenant Mike Neumaier
Lieutenant Al Wade
Lieutenant Tony Centimano
Firefighter Mike Thomas
Firefighter Tim Masinick
Firefighter/Paramedic Tony Cavallo
Firefighter/Paramedic Trevor Kelly
Firefighter/Paramedic Kelly Malone
Firefighter/Paramedic Joe Davila
Firefighter/Paramedic Wes Gosser
Firefighter/Paramedic Patrick Lacey
Firefighter/Paramedic Brad Wilton
Paramedic Art Lloyd
Paramedic Alex Putz
Paramedic Steve Williams
Paramedic Tyler Assell

EMA

Bob Frederick
Eric Dries
John Moriarty
Bud Howatt
Ginger Smietana
Dave Evans
Marge Evans
Dave Frye
Jerry Schmitz
Paul Pfothenhauer
Ken Mettler
Mike Mustard
Mike Haase